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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An absorbent product comprising a crystallized carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture for reducing the amount of irritation on a wearer's skin caused by microbial-produced volatile organic compounds, the mixture being capable of generating oxygen upon activation, the oxygen acting as a terminal electron acceptor for bacteria on or near the skin's surface such that the production of volatile organic compounds by the bacteria is reduced, the absorbent product being selected from the group consisting of diapers, training pants, adult incontinence garments, feminine napkins, and interlabial pads.

Claims 2-5 (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent product contains from about 0.01% (by weight of the absorbent product) to about 5% (by weight of the absorbent product) of the crystallized carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

7. (Previously Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent product contains from about 0.1% (by weight of the absorbent product) to about 1% (by

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weight of the absorbent product) of the crystallized carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

8. (Previously Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 1 wherein the crystallized carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture is encapsulated in a shell.

9. (Previously Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 8 wherein the diameter of the shell is no greater than about 25 micrometers.

10. (Previously Presented) An absorbent product comprising a crystallized carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture for reducing the amount of irritation on a wearer's skin caused by microbial-produced volatile organic compounds, the mixture being capable of generating oxygen upon activation, the oxygen acting as a terminal electron acceptor for bacteria on or near the skin's surface such that the production of volatile organic compounds by the bacteria is reduced, the carbohydrate comprising a sugar alcohol, and wherein the absorbent product is selected from the group consisting of diapers, training pants, adult incontinence garments, feminine napkins, tampons, and interlabial pads.

11. (Previously Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 10 wherein the sugar alcohol is selected from the group consisting of dulcitol, arabitol, adonitol, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, lactitol, maltitol, dithioerythritol, dithiothreitol, glycerol, galactitol, erythritol, inositol, ribitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

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12. (Previously Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 10 wherein the sugar alcohol is selected from the group consisting of mannitol and sorbitol.

13. (Previously Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 10 wherein the absorbent product contains from about 0.01% (by weight of the absorbent product) to about 5% (by weight of the absorbent product) of the crystallized carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

14. (Previously Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 10 wherein the absorbent product contains from about 0.1% (by weight of the absorbent product) to about 1% (by weight of the absorbent product) of the crystallized carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

Claims 15-18 (Canceled).

19. (Previously Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 10 wherein the crystallized carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture is encapsulated in a shell.

20. (Presented Presented) The absorbent product as set forth in claim 19 wherein the shell has a diameter no greater than about 25 micrometers.

21. (Previously Presented) An absorbent product comprising from about 0.01% (by weight of the absorbent product) to about 5% (by weight of the absorbent product) of a crystallized mannitol-hydrogen peroxide mixture for reducing the amount of irritation on a wearer's skin caused by microbial-produced volatile organic compounds, the mixture being capable of generating oxygen upon

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activation, the oxygen acting as a terminal electron acceptor for bacteria on or near the skin's surface such that the production of volatile organic compounds by the bacteria is reduced, wherein the absorbent product is selected from the group consisting of diapers, training pants, adult incontinence garments, feminine napkins, tampons, and interlabial pads.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A product comprising from about 0.01% (by weight of the product) to about 5% (by weight of the product) of a crystallized sorbitol-hydrogen peroxide mixture for reducing the amount of irritation on a wearer's skin caused by microbial-produced volatile organic compounds, the mixture being capable of generating oxygen upon activation, the oxygen acting as a terminal electron acceptor for bacteria on or near the skin's surface such that the production of volatile organic compounds by the bacteria is reduced, the product being selected from the group consisting of diapers, training pants, adult incontinence garments, feminine napkins, paper towels, tampons, interlabial pads, facial tissue, wound management products, bath tissue, deodorant powder, deodorant sticks, diaper pails, liners for diaper pails, refuse containers, bed pads, and puppy pads.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a product comprising a carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture for reducing the amount of irritation on a wearer's skin caused by microbial-produced volatile organic compounds, the mixture being capable of generating oxygen upon activation, the oxygen acting as a terminal electron acceptor for bacteria on or near the

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skin's surface such that the production of volatile organic compounds by the bacteria is reduced, the process comprising:

mixing a carbohydrate and hydrogen peroxide together to form a carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture;

heating the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture at a temperature of at least about 90°C for at least about 4.5 hours to evaporate off any solvent in the mixture and produce solid particles; and

incorporating the solid particles into the product.

26. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 25 wherein the mixture is heated for a period of at least about 7 hours prior to incorporation into the product.

27. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 25 wherein the mixture is heated for a period of at least about 24 hours prior to incorporation into the product.

28. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 25 wherein the carbohydrate is selected from the group consisting of dulcitol, arabitol, adonitol, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, lactitol, maltitol, dithioerythritol, dithiothreitol, glycerol, galactitol, erythritol, inositol, ribitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a product comprising a carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture for reducing the amount of irritation on a wearer's skin caused by microbial-produced volatile organic compounds, the mixture being capable of generating oxygen upon activation, the oxygen acting as a terminal electron acceptor for bacteria on or near the

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skin's surface such that the production of volatile organic compounds by the bacteria is reduced, the process comprising:

mixing a sugar alcohol and hydrogen peroxide together to form a sugar-alcohol-hydrogen peroxide mixture;

heating the sugar alcohol-hydrogen peroxide mixture at a temperature of at least about 97°C for at least about 7 hours to evaporate off any solvent in the mixture and produce solid particles; and

incorporating the solid particles into the product.

30. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 29 wherein the sugar alcohol is selected from the group consisting of mannitol and sorbitol.

31. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a stream of oxygen to reduce the amount of irritation on a wearer's skin caused by microbial-produced volatile organic compounds, the process comprising:

introducing a carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture into a product to be worn by the wearer, the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture being capable of generating oxygen upon activation, the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture being activated upon insult by the wearer.

32. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 31 wherein the product contains from about 0.01% (by weight of the product) to about 5% (by weight of the product) of the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

33. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 31 wherein the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture comprises a sugar alcohol-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

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34. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 33 wherein the sugar alcohol is selected from the group consisting of dulcitol, arabitol, adonitol, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, lactitol, maltitol, dithioerythritol, dithiothreitol, glycerol, galactitol, erythritol, inositol, ribitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

35. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 34 wherein the sugar alcohol is selected from the group consisting of mannitol and sorbitol.

36. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a volatile organic compound-inhibiting stream of oxygen to reduce the amount of irritation on a wearer's skin caused by volatile organic compounds produced by facultative bacteria, the process comprising:

introducing a carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture into a product to be worn by the wearer, the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture being capable of generating oxygen upon activation, the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture being activated upon insult by the wearer.

37. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 36 wherein the volatile organic compound-inhibiting stream of oxygen reduces the amount of irritation on the wearer's skin caused by volatile organic compounds produced by Gram negative facultative bacteria.

38. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 37 wherein the Gram negative facultative bacteria is *S. aureus*.

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39. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 36 wherein the product contains from about 0.01% (by weight of the product) to about 5% (by weight of the product) of the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

40. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 36 wherein the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture comprises a sugar alcohol-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

41. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 40 wherein the sugar alcohol is selected from the group consisting of dulcitol, arabitol, adonitol, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, lactitol, maltitol, dithioerythritol, dithiothreitol, glycerol, galactitol, erythritol, inositol, ribitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, and mixtures and combinations thereof.

42. (Withdrawn) The process as set forth in claim 41 wherein the sugar alcohol is selected from the group consisting of mannitol and sorbitol.

Claims 43-46 (Canceled).

[43] 47. (Currently Amended) An absorbent product comprising a carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture for reducing the amount of irritation on a wearer's skin caused by volatile organic compounds produced by *Proteus mirabilis*, the absorbent product being selected from the group consisting of diapers, training pants, adult incontinence garments, feminine napkins, tampons, and interlabial pads, and wherein the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture, upon activation, kills no more than



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about 20% of the *Proteus mirabilis* that produce the volatile organic compounds.

[44] 48. (Currently Amended) The absorbent product as set forth in claim [43] 47 wherein the absorbent product contains from about 0.01% (by weight of the absorbent product) to about 5% (by weight of the absorbent product) of the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

[45] 49. (Currently Amended) The absorbent product as set forth in claim [43] 47 wherein the absorbent product contains from about 0.1% (by weight of the absorbent product) to about 1% (by weight of the absorbent product) of the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture.

[46] 50. (Currently Amended) The absorbent product as set forth in claim [43] 47 wherein the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture is encapsulated in a shell.

[47] 51. (Currently Amended) The absorbent product as set forth in claim [46] 50 wherein the diameter of the shell is no greater than about 25 micrometers.

[48] 52. (Currently Amended) The absorbent product as set forth in claim [43] 47 wherein the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide mixture is crystallized.

[49] 53. (Currently Amended) The absorbent product as set forth in claim [43] 47 wherein the carbohydrate-hydrogen peroxide is mannitol-hydrogen peroxide.

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[50] 54. (Currently Amended) The absorbent product as set forth in claim [49] 53 wherein the mannitol-hydrogen peroxide mixture is crystallized.